

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is in response to the amendment filed 3/12/2008.
2. Per applicant's request, claims 2-12, 14-17, 20-22, 24, 27, and 32 have been amended; Claims 1, 13, and 19 have been cancelled.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 1-12, 14-18, and 20-32 are allowed.

Examiner's amendment

4. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Dennis de Guzman (Reg. No 41,702) on 5/27/2008. Although, claims 14 and 22 has been amended and filed on 3/12/2008 but examiner believes that they should include the missing limitations found in the independent claim 1 in order to put the claims in allowable condition. Therefore, the examiner's amendment is necessitated to clarify the claimed invention.

Claims 14, 15, 17, 22, and 23 have been amended as follow:

14. (Current Amended) A method, comprising:

storing ~~first information in an electronic device that is indicative of configuration features for the electronic device~~ a product configuration matrix (PCM) having information representative of at least one software feature that can be installed in an electronic device;

storing an external configuration control file (CCF) having ~~second~~ information indicative of ~~configuration~~ software features that are available for loading into the electronic device;

automatically comparing the ~~first~~ PCM information and ~~second~~ the CCP information to determine if there is at least one match between the PCM information and the CCF information; and

receiving a software feature that corresponds to said at least one match between the PCM information and the CCP information, and automatically loading a ~~configuration~~ said received software feature into the electronic device ~~that corresponds to a match between the compared first and second information,~~

wherein said storing the CCF ~~second~~ information includes;

providing a mask having characters arranged in positions of an alphanumeric string, the string having a first type of alphanumeric character in positions in the string that are to be ignored during the comparing with the ~~first~~ PCM information and having a second type of alphanumeric character, different from the first type of alphanumeric

Art Unit: 2191

character, in positions in the string that are to be compared to determine said at least one ~~for a~~ match with corresponding positions in the first PCM information;

specifying, for each of the position in said mask that have the second type of alphanumeric character, a location external to the electronic device where a corresponding configuration software feature can be copied from ~~external to the electronic device~~; and

specifying, for each of the positions in said mask that have the second type of alphanumeric character, a location in the electronic device where a ~~said~~ corresponding configuration software feature can be copied to ~~in the electronic device~~.

15. (Current Amended) The method of claim 14 wherein said storing the ~~second~~ CCF information includes storing the ~~second~~ CCF information in a file that is remote from the electronic device, including storing the file in at least one of a remote file system, wireless network, and wired network.

17. (Current Amended) The method of claim 14 wherein said loading the configuration software feature into the electronic device includes loading a said software feature into the electronic device without rebuilding an operating system image of the electronic device.

22. (Current Amended) A system. Comprising:

Art Unit: 2191

a means for storing a product configuration matrix (PCM) having information representative of at least one software feature that can be installed in an electronic device ~~first information in an electronic device that is indicative of configuration features for the electronic device~~, wherein said ~~first~~ PCM information includes an alphanumeric string;

a means for storing, as a configuration control file (CCF), ~~second~~ CCF information indicative of ~~configuration~~ software features that are available for loading into the electronic device;

a means for automatically comparing the ~~first~~ PCM information and ~~second~~ the CCF information to determine if there is at least one match between the PCM information and the CCF information; and

a means for receiving a software features that corresponds to said at least one match between the PCM information and the CCF information, and for automatically loading ~~a configuration~~ said received feature into the electronic device ~~that corresponds to a match between the compared first and second information,~~

wherein said means for automatically comparing the ~~first~~ PCM information and ~~second~~ the CCF information:

compares each position in the alphanumeric string with a corresponding position in a mask in the CCF;

for at least one position of the alphanumeric string that matches with a corresponding position in the mask, determine from the CCF a first location indicative of

Art Unit: 2191

where a corresponding configuration feature is available and a second location in the electronic device where that configuration features is to be installed; and

wherein said means for automatically loading obtain that configuration feature from the first location and installs the obtained configuration feature in the second location.

23. (Current Amended) The system of claim 22 wherein said means for storing ~~second~~ said CCF information includes means for remotely storing either or both the CCF and the available ~~configuration~~ software features remotely from the electronic device.

Examiner's Statement of Reason(s) for Allowance

5. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The prior art of record i.e. Chen et al. (USPAN 2005/0102660), taken alone or in combination with other prior art fails to teach or reasonably suggest *wherein said reading the PCM information includes reading an alphanumeric string, wherein said comparing the read PCM information with information from the CCF includes: comparing each position in the alphanumeric string with a corresponding position in a mask in the CCF; and for at least one position of the alphanumeric string that matches with a corresponding position in the mask, determining from the CCF a first location indicative of where a corresponding software feature is available and a second location in the electronic device where that software feature is to be installed, and wherein said*

obtaining and installing that software feature into the electronic device respectively include obtaining that software feature from the first location and installing the obtained software feature in the second location as recited in the independent claim 4. Similar concepts are found in the other independent claims 14, 21, 22, and 27.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Phillip H. Nguyen whose telephone number is (571) 270-1070. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Thursday 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Wei Y. Zhen can be reached on (571) 272-3708. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 2191

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

PN

6/5/2008

/Wei Zhen/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2191